

What Is Claimed Is:

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- 1 A method of forming an invention disclosure comprises the steps of:
- forming an invention disclosure online by entering a plurality of selected information into a web-based system;
- 5 as the plurality of selected information is entered, storing the information in a central storage location; and
- allowing access to various users for reviewing the information.
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2. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein said step of forming includes providing identification information; whereby upon providing identification information to said web-based server,
- 15 retrieving user information from the directory system in response to the identification information.
3. A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of prompting the user for classification information.
- 20 4. A method as recited in claim 3 further comprising the steps of notifying an evaluator in response to the classification information; prompting an evaluation from the evaluator.
5. A method as recited in claim 4 wherein
- 25 the step of notifying an evaluator comprises the step of generating an E-mail; providing a hyperlink to the disclosure in the E-mail.

6. A method as recited in claim 4 wherein the step of prompting an evaluation comprises scheduling an evaluation meeting.

7. A method as recited in claim 4 wherein the step of prompting an evaluation comprises ranking the disclosure.

8. A method as recited in claim 3 further comprising the step of notifying a patent staff person in response to the classification information.

9. A method as recited in claim 8 further comprising the step of prompting a patentability review from the patent staff person.

10. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein said central location comprises a database coupled to a web server.

11. A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the steps of identifying co-authors; notifying co-authors of a disclosure with their name associated therewith in the system.

12. A method as recited in claim 11 wherein said step of notifying comprises the step of generating an E-mail having a hyperlink therein.

13. A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of viewing the status of the invention disclosure on-line.

14. A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of providing a status update via E-mail.

15. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the step of allowing access comprises prompting users for a password.

16. A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of accepting a paper submission; and wherein the step of forming comprises scanning said paper submission into the database.

Sub A<sup>2</sup> 17. An invention disclosure system comprising:

15 a user computer;  
a server;  
a database coupled to the server;  
said server providing user screens to said users to prompt said users to provide disclosure information to said server, receiving disclosure information from said users, storing information in said database, and allowing access to said disclosure after storing the information on said database.

18. A system as recited in claim 17 further comprising a directory system coupled to said server whereby upon proving identification information to server said server retrieves user information from the directory system in response to the identification information.

19. A system as recited in claim 17 wherein said server comprises a web server.

20. A system as recited in claim 17 wherein said user computer comprises a web browser  
5 for accessing said server.

21. A system as recited in claim 18 wherein said user computer comprises a CAD file viewer coupled to said web browser.

22. A system as recited in claim 17  
10 wherein said server comprises a web single login.

Sub A7 23. An invention disclosure submission system comprising:

forming an invention disclosure online by entering a plurality of selected information into a  
15 web-based system;

as the plurality of selected information is entered, storing the information in a central storage location;

allowing access to various users to access  
20 the information;

prompting the user for classification information;

notifying an evaluator in response to the classification information; and

25 prompting an evaluation from the evaluator.

24. A method as recited in claim 23 wherein said step of forming includes providing identification information; whereby upon providing identification information to said web-based server,

retrieving user information from the directory system in response to the identification information.

25. A method as recited in claim 23 wherein the step of notifying an evaluator comprises  
5 the step of generating an E-mail; providing a hyperlink to the disclosure in the E-mail.

26. A method as recited in claim 23 wherein the step of prompting an evaluation comprises scheduling an evaluation meeting.

10 27. A method as recited in claim 23 wherein the step of prompting an evaluation comprises ranking the disclosure.

28. A method as recited in claim 23 further comprising the step of notifying a patent  
15 staff person in response to the classification information.

29. A method as recited in claim 23 further comprising the step of prompting a patentability review from the patent staff person.

20 30. A method as recited in claim 23 wherein said central location comprises a database coupled to a web server.

31. A method as recited in claim 23 further comprising the steps of identifying co-  
25 authors; notifying co-authors of a disclosure with their name associated therewith in the system.

32. A method as recited in claim 23 wherein said step of notifying comprises the step of generating an E-mail having a hyperlink therein.

33. A method as recited in claim 23 further comprising the step of viewing the status of the invention disclosure on-line.

34. A method as recited in claim 23 further comprising the step of providing a status update via E-mail.

35. A method as recited in claim 23 wherein the step of allowing access comprises prompting users for a password.

36. A method as recited in claim 23 further comprising the step of accepting a paper submission; and

wherein the step of forming comprises scanning said paper submission into the database.

37. A method of submitting documents comprising:

entering identification information;  
retrieving user information from a directory system in response to said identification information;

entering disclosure information to create an invention disclosure;

coupling said user information with said disclosure; and

storing the disclosure in a database.

38. A method as recited in claim 37 further comprising the step of prompting the user for classification information.

5 39. A method as recited in claim 38 further comprising the steps of notifying an evaluator in response to the classification information; prompting an evaluation from the evaluator.

10 40. A method as recited in claim 37 further comprising the step of notifying a patent staff person in response to the classification information.

15 41. A method as recited in claim 40 further comprising the step of prompting a patentability review from the patent staff person.